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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Application of

Katsumi SAKAMAKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2629

Application No.: 10/722,453

Examiner: J. NGUYEN

Filed: November 28, 2003

Docket No.: 117880

For: USER INTERFACE DEVICE WITHOUT IMPOSING STRAIN ON EYESIGHT

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the August 31, 2006 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks. Claims 1-17 are pending in this application.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Jaeger (U.S. Patent No. 5,977,955; hereinafter "Jaeger '955"); rejects claims 11 and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaeger '955 in view of Jaeger (U.S. Patent No. 6,642,919; hereinafter "Jaeger '919"); rejects claims 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaeger '955 in view of McIntyre (U.S. Patent No. 6,549,194); and rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaeger '955 in view of Noguchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,707,387). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Specifically, Applicants assert that Jaeger '955, Jaeger '919, McIntyre, and Noguchi, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a user interface device, including at

least an operation member for being operated by a user, and operation member drive control means for driving the operation member at least in a one-dimensional direction, as recited in independent claim 1.

In stark contrast, Jaeger '955 (col. 17, lines 48-65 to col. 18, lines 1-3, with reference to Fig. 21), discloses that, during turning of knob 153, a detector 174 generates a number of electrical pulses 177 that are indicative of the amount of movement of the knob 153, and an electronic circuit 178 merely *tracks* the movements of the knob 153 by counting pulses 177 and producing a signal that is indicative of the angular setting of the knob 153. The electronic circuit 178 does not drive the knob. Accordingly, Jaeger '955 fails to disclose an operation member drive control means for driving the operation member at least in a one-dimensional direction, as recited in claim 1.

Jaeger '919, McIntyre, and Noguchi also fail to disclose an operation member drive control means for driving the operation member at least in a one-dimensional direction, as recited in claim 1, and therefore, fail to make up for the deficiencies of Jaeger '955.

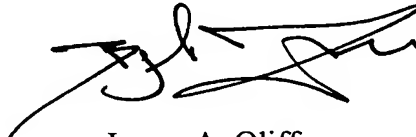
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Jaeger '955, Jaeger '919, McIntyre, and Noguchi, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a user interface device, including at least an operation member drive control means for driving the operation member at least in a one-dimensional direction, as recited in independent claim 1.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2-17 depend from claim 1, and therefore, also define patentable subject matter, as well as for the additional features they recite. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 30, 2006

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